

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: THAI REQUEST THAT RTG CONTRIBUTION TO JUSMAG BE REDUCED

1. UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE ANAN PANYARACHUN ON BEHALF OF THE THAI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS MADE A REQUEST THAT THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION UNDER ARTICLE 8 OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT OF OCTOBER 7, 1950 COVERING THE JUSMAG IN THAILAND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATING EXPENDITURES BE REDUCED FROM 15 MILLION BAHT PER YEAR TO NINE MILLION BAHT AND THAT THIS REDUCTION TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY SO THAT THE REMAINING INCREMENT OF SIX MILLION BAHT DUE BY SEPTEMBER 30, THE END OF THE THAI FISCAL YEAR, WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE PAID. THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THIS MATTER IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO THE JUSMAG HAS STEADILY DECLINED AND THEREFORE THIS LOCAL CONTRIBUTION SHOULD THEREFORE BE REDUCED.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AND DOD WILL RECALL, UNDER TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PAYING ANNUALLY A TOTAL OF 15 MILLION BAHT TO COVER VARIOUS TRAVEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE JUSMAG AND CONTRIBUTED CURRENCY. PAYMENT AT THIS

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LEVEL HAS BEEN MADE SINCE 1560 WHEN THE LAST ADJUSTMENT WAS

EFFECTED. SEVEN MILLION BAHT OF THIS PAYMENT HAS BEEN AVAILABLE AS A DRAWING ACCOUNT TO THE JUSMAG TO COVER SUPPORT COSTS ON A VOUCHER BASIS THROUGHOUT EACH FISCAL YEAR. THE EIGHT MILLION BAHT INCONTRIBUTED CURRENCY HAS BEEN PAID ON A QUARTERLY BASIS IN THE FORM OF A CHECK TO THE U.S. MISSION AND HAS BEEN DEPOSITED AND REGULARLY REPORTED TO TREASURY ON FORM FS-488. THE CHECK HAS BEEN DEPOSITED IN ACCOUNT 20FT115.

2. THE THAI GOVERNMENT REQUEST, GIVEN THE REDUCTION IN NUMBERS IN JUSMAG OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, SEEMS A REASONABLE ONE. THE MATTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL WITH THE CHIEF OF THE JUSMAG WHO CONCURS THAT UNLESS THERE IS SOME OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION OF WHICH WE ARE UNAWARE THE DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENT SHOULD BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE THE THAI.

3. THE ARRANGEMENT PROPOSED BY ANAN WOULD BE THAT THE TOTAL PAYMENT IN FUTURE YEARS UNDER ARTICLE 8 WOULD BE NINE MILLION BAHT, TWO MILLION OF WHICH WOULD IN CONTRIBUTED CURRENCY AND PAID BY CHECK TO THE EMBASSY AS AT PRESENT WITH THE REMAINING SEVEN MILLION BEING AVAILABLE FOR VOUCHERED JUSMAG COSTS THROUGHOUT THE FISCAL YEAR.

4. THE THAI HAVE REQUESTED AN EARLY REPLY BECAUSE OF THE ADJUSTMENTS WHICH MUST BE MADE WITHIN THEIR NATIONAL BUDGET SHOULD THEIR REQUEST BE HONORED.

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